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THE NEUSTASSFURT AND BERNBURG-GROENHA SALT MINES
IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

I. NEUSTASSFURT SALT MINE
OF THE SACHSEN-ANHALT INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, 19 APRIL 1948

Location: Neustassfurt, near Stassfurt.

Ownership: Land Sachsen-Anhalt.

Manager: Ernst Wagner, director.

Products

Before and during World War II:

1. Potash, potassium bicarbonate, potassium sulfate, potassium chloride.
2. Rock salt.

War Damage: None.

Dismantling

In January 1947, the cable of the cable railway, which was used for supplying raw brown coal, was removed, causing substantial interruption in the coal supply.

Production Capacity

Approximately 400 tons of potash and 12,500 tons of rock salt monthly.

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Equipment in the Potash Factory

- 3 Walther chamber boilers with through grates, for raw brown coal; built in 1936.
- Boiler No 1: 450-square-meter heating surface, 17.5 tons of steam per hour, 25 atmospheres (gauge), and 400 degrees centigrade.
- Boiler No 2: 310-square-meter heating surface, 12.0 tons of steam per hour, 25 atmospheres (gauge), and 400 degrees centigrade.
- Boiler No 3: 140-square-meter heating surface, 4.5 tons of steam per hour, 35 atmospheres (gauge), and 240 degrees centigrade.
- 1 Water-purifying installation, capacity 25 cubic meters per hour.
- 1 Condensation turbo installation, 1,900 kilowatts, 2,100 volts, 3,000 rpm; built in 1931.
- 1 Condensation turbo installation, 1,900/2,500 kilowatts, 2,100 volts, 3,000 rpm, with bleeding installation; built in 1936.
- 1 Lime-slaking installation with reserve, power-driven, capacity 20 tons in 8 hours; built in 1937.
- 1 Potassium-sulfate-purifying installation, capacity 50 tons per day; built in 1937.
- 1 Air-gas producer with reserve, maximum capacity 10 tons of coke daily; built in 1937.
- 2 Steam compressors for 30 cubic meters per minute; compress vapor to 35 atmospheres (gauge); admission pressure of steam 23 atmospheres, counter-pressure 3.5 atmospheres; built in 1937.
- 2 Autoclaves, each 10-cubic-meter content, capacity 4.5 cubic meters per hour, 35 atmospheres pressure, electrically driven; built in 1937.
- 2 Autoclaves, each 5 cubic meters content, capacity 2.5 cubic meters per hour, 35 atmospheres pressure, electrically driven; built in 1937.
- 2 Rotary filters, each with 6.5-square-meter filtering surface, electrically driven; built in 1938.
- 1 Four-stage vacuum steam installation, capacity for water evaporation 180 tons in 24 hours; built in 1931.
- 3 Calcining furnaces with direct water-gas heating, capacity 9 tons daily, electrically operated; built in 1937.
- 1 Water-gas producer with reserve, maximum capacity 6 tons of coke daily; built in 1937.
- 2 Fine crushers for grinding potash; built in 1931. Transport installations for transporting raw materials and finished products.
- Pumps of various capacities.
- Motors, 380/220 volts.
- CO-combustion furnace; built in 1938.
- 2 CO₂-compressors; built in 1913 and 1915.

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2 CO₂-absorption cylinders; built in 1930.

3 Centrifuges; built in 1930.

3 Disk driers; built in 1930.

2 Crushers.

Mixers, containers.

Mining Equipment

5 Scrapers, with cog-wheel gearing and planetary gearing, cable 200 meters long and 20 millimeters in diameter; 4 of them for 50 kilowatts and 220 volts, 1 for 50 kilowatts and 2,000 volts; built in 1929 and 1931.

1 Rotary pit-head winch, 75 horsepower, 220 volts, cable length 200 meters, diameter 22 millimeters; built in 1914.

1 Rotary pit-head winch, 15 horsepower, 220 volts; cable length 175 meters, diameter 20 millimeters; built in 1899.

1 Benzene locomotive, 10-12 horsepower, 0.6 meter gauge; built in 1913.

3 Benzene locomotives, 14-16 horsepower, 0.6 meter gauge; built in 1922.

1 Endless-cable hauling machine, 610-1,090 horsepower, 600 volts direct current; cable length 620 meters, diameter 43 millimeters; built in 1913.

1 Endless-cable hauling machine with 1:6.25 gear, 275 horsepower, 2,000 volts; cable length 500 meters, diameter 32 millimeters; built in 1913.

3 Jaw crushers, belt-driven; built in 1914.

4 Bell crushers for fine crushing; built in 1914.

6 Roller frames, capacity 10 tons per hour; built in 1914.

2 Conveyer belts for fine salt, capacity 40 tons per hour, 400 millimeters wide; built in 1913.

1 Sifting installation for table salt, consisting of seven plan-sifting machines with total capacity of 3 tons per hour, for sifting salt grade 0; built in 1920.

300 Box-type handcars with rounded bottom, with sets of roller bearings; capacity 650 liters, or about 0.9 ton of salt; built in 1913.

1 Ventilator, 1,200 cubic meters per minute, 37 horsepower, 2,000 volts; built in 1914.

5 Ventilators, Pelzer system, 3 kilowatts, 220 volts; built in 1905.

19 Transformers, total capacity 1,100 kilovolt-amperes, 2,100-220 volts.

Number of Employees

1 Apr 1944

1 Apr 1948

Potash Factory

Laborers

184

266

Office workers and engineers

24

64

Total

208

310

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<u>Number of Employees</u>	<u>1 Apr 1944</u>	<u>1 Apr 1948</u>
Mining (Shaft VI)		
Laborers	158	212
Office workers and engineers	16	15
Total	174	227

<u>Production (in tons)</u>	<u>Before World War II</u>	<u>During World War II</u>	<u>1947</u>
Potash	7,470	7,540	3,185
Potassium bicarbonate	452	715	177
Potassium sulfate	82	472	228
Potassium chloride	16	35	47
Rock salt	110,490	146,430	85,021

<u>Quantity of Products Sold (in tons)</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1947</u>
Potash	6,389	7,833	3,591
Potassium bicarbonate	199	566	364
Potassium sulfate	107	504	336
Potassium chloride	16	28	30
Rock salt	110,490	146,430	85,021

Destination of ProductsFirst Quarter 1948 (in tons)

Potash		295
Reparations deliveries		
Administration for Foreign Trade of the Soviet		
Military Administration	127	422
Glassworks, chemical and other industries		
in East Germany		362
Total		784

Potassium bicarbonate, potassium sulfate

Chemical industry and wholesalers	125
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Potassium chloride

Rock salt

Reparations deliveries	15,083
Exports to Czechoslovakia	12,368
Civilian use in East Germany	2,887
Total	30,338

Before World War II (1938) (in tons)

Potash

Export	2,497	
Domestic use (glass, chemical industry, etc.)	3,892	6,389

Potassium bicarbonate

Export	94	
Domestic use (glass, fire-fighting equipment)	105	199

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Potassium sulfate

Export	47	
Domestic use (chemical industry)	60	107

Potassium chloride

Export	12	
Domestic use (chemical industry)	4	16

Rock salt

Table salt	}	110,490
Commercial salt (fish-processing, etc.)		
Industrial salt (chemical industry)		

Additional Products

No additional products can be produced with the available facilities.

Supply of Raw Materials

<u>Type of Material</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Monthly Requirements</u>	<u>Inventory 1 Apr 1948</u>
Industrial potassium sulfate	Stassfurt Potassium Plant	900 tons	240 tons
Quicklime	Hornberg Potassium Plant	400 "	195 "
Coke	Magdeburg Gasworks	300 "	460 "
Martin slag	Thale Rolling Mill	30 "	100 "
Brown coal	Koenigsau and Nachterstedt	5,000 "	810 "
Soda	Stassfurt Soda Factory	2 "	1.5 "
Caustic soda	Westeregeln Alkali Works	7.5 "	-
Brown-coal briquettes	Nachterstedt	200 "	233 "
Mine benzene		2,000 kg	-
Explosives		10,000 "	-
Wood for barrels		60 cu m	-
Hoop iron		3 tons	-
Barrel hooks and rivets		30 kg	-

Foreign Capital

This consists of 175,398 pounds sterling, part of the Potassium-Pound Loan taken by the former German Potassium Syndicate.

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Future Prospects

An effort is being made to increase production of potash, the main product of the firm, by 500 tons monthly. A prerequisite for this increase, however, is to raise the capacity of the plant's machinery, especially its vaporization and condensation installations and steam boilers, by replacing old pipes with new ones. Negotiations are being carried on with the Soviet Military Administration, Berlin, Karlshorst (chief engineer Bekin), to make the necessary raw materials available.

Furthermore, the supply of a sufficient quantity of raw materials (Harz quicklime, coke, potassium sulfate) and packaging materials (barrel staves, hoop iron, barrel hooks, willow rims) would have to be assured.

In regard to rock salt, it is believed that the 1948 output will again reach the prewar and wartime levels.

II. BERNBURG-GROENA SALT MINE
OF THE SACHSEN-ANHALT INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, 20 MARCH 1948

Location: Bernburg-Groena, near Bernburg/Saale.

Ownership: Land Sachsen-Anhalt.

Manager: Otto Haupt, director.

Product: Rock salt.

War damage: None.

Dismantling: None.

Production Capacity: 180,000 tons of rock salt per year.

Equipment

Mining is being carried out underground by the use of scrapers and cable-car installations. An electrically driven conveyer brings the salt to the surface and to the grinding mill, where an aggregate of crushers, roller frames, and sieves prepares the salt for shipment.

The equipment has been in use since 1928, and depreciation of machinery amounts to 50 percent.

<u>Number of Employees</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>During World War II</u>
Laborers	178	266
Office workers, engineers	27	34
Total	205	300

Quantity of Products Sold

In 1938, 175,167 tons of raw salt were sold; in 1944, 322,911 tons of rock salt; and in 1947, 123,813 tons of rock salt.

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Destination of Products

At present: Commercial and industrial rock salt destined for Soviet Corporations (SAG) is as follows (in tons per month): Bitterfeld 2,000, Buna 2,000, Wolfen 1,000, Schwarzeide 500, Boehlen 300, Expenhain 150, and Goelzau 150. Small quantities of table salt are being delivered to the laender in East Germany.

Before World War II: Delivery of raw salt to agriculture.

Future Prospects

Output could be increased if additional materials and employees were to be allotted. Hard salt and carnallite could also be produced if the materials necessary for their production were made available.

Supply of Raw Materials

An adequate quantity of raw material is available underground.

Foreign Capital

This consists of 1,904,151 reichsmarks from the Potassium-Pound Loan.

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